Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): Relay with coupling element, comprising: at least one spring bracket, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs being electrically contactable through a connection contact; characterized in that the relay is mechanically ~~couplable~~ connectable with at least one further relay of the same kind wherein

each of the relays have a similar configuration, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays to thereby provide the mechanical connection between the respective relays, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element.

Claim 22 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the active and/or passive contact springs of the spring brackets of said relays are also electrically coupled with one another across the coupling element.

Claim 23 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element is releasably coupled.

Claim 24 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element is non-releasably coupled.

Claim 25 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 24, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 26 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 25, characterized in that between the lateral projections of the partition wall grooves are formed, which grooves are adapted for the reception of said contact springs.

Claim 27 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the receiving openings of the respective spring brackets of the relays define lengthwise axes and the spring brackets further define outwardly opening slots disposed parallel to the lengthwise axes, the passive contact springs being disposed within the slots.

Claim 28 (previously added): Relay according to claim 27, characterized in that for the electrical connection of the passive contact springs of the spring brackets of the two relays, at least one double contact spring is slidable into grooves of the coupling element.

Claim 29 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 28, characterized in that the at least one double contact spring is adapted to be connected with the coupling element

prior to the coupling element being plugged together with the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 30 (previously added): Relay according to claim 29, characterized in that the active and passive contact springs are arranged at an angle of 90° to one another.

Claim 31 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element is releasably coupled.

Claim 32 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element is non-releasably coupled.

Claim 33 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 34 (previously amended): Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 35 (previously amended) Relay according to claim 23, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

Claim 36 (previously added): Relay according to claim 26, characterized in that for the electrical connection of the passive contact springs of the spring brackets of the two relays, at least one double contact spring is slidable into grooves of the coupling element.

Claim 37 (previously added): Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the active and passive contact springs are arranged at an angle of 90° to one another.

Claim 38 (previously added): Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the active and passive contact springs are arranged at an angle of 90° to one another.

Claim 39 (currently amended): Relay assembly with coupling element, comprising: at least two relays, each relay having at least one spring bracket, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs being electrically contactable through a connection contact; characterized in that the at least two relays are mechanically ~~couplable~~ connectable, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays to thereby provide the mechanical connection between the respective relays, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element and wherein the coupling element is releasably coupled.

Claim 40 (previously added): Relay assembly with coupling element, comprising: at least two relays, each relay having at least one spring bracket, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs being electrically contactable through a connection contact; characterized in that the at least two relays are mechanically couplable, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element and wherein the active and/or passive contact springs of the spring brackets of the at least two relays are also electrically coupled with one another across the coupling element.

Claim 41 (previously added): The relay assembly with coupling element of claim 40 wherein the coupling element electrically couples the passive and/or active contact springs of the at least two coupled relays to define a serial circuit.

Claim 42 (previously added): Relay with coupling element, comprising: at least one spring bracket, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring

anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs being electrically contactable through a connection contact; characterized in that the relay is mechanically couplable with at least one further relay of the same type to provide at least two relays wherein each of the relays have a similar configuration, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element and wherein said coupling element includes at least one groove and at least one multiple contact spring slidably mounted in the groove and electrically coupling the passive and/or active contact springs of the spring brackets of said relays with one another across the coupling element.

Claim 43 (previously added): The relay with coupling element of claim 42 wherein the coupling element electrically couples the passive and/or active contact springs of the at least two coupled relays to define a serial circuit.